# Tips and Tricks for SAP Crystal Dashboard Design (Xcelsius)

* Do not run Excel while using Dashboard Design.
* Run 1 instance of Dashboard Design at a time.
* Troubleshooting Tips for Dashboard Design: Using Snapshot
  + During Preview, Use File🡪Snapshot 🡪 Current Excel Data and save the Excel file to find the error in Excel.

## MS Excel Part

* Prepare your Excel file before importing to Dashboard.
* Keep data and logic to a minimum. If you don’t use or don’t need any data or logic, get rid of them.
* Do all data organizations before importing.
* Use **Colors, Labels, and Borders** to identify data types (input and output).
* Organize your data in a logical fashion.
* Place frequently used data and logic at the top of the spreadsheet.
* Use multiple worksheets instead of one long worksheet.
* Avoid array calculations (SUM, COUNT, SUMIF, COUNTIF, INDEX, MATCH, HLOOKUP, VLOOKUP, etc.) if possible, they slow down the process significantly.
* Pivot tables are partially supported.
* Macros, Visual Basic scripts, external spreadsheets, and 3rd party Microsoft Excel plug-ins are not supported.
* If an Excel file does not open in Windows Explorer, change the DDE settings in Excel.  
  Open Excel, go to Excel options Tab Advanced, scroll down to general, select Ignore other applications that use Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE)

## Design Part

* Visualize your design on a paper or board before starting the project on Dashboard.
* LESS is MORE.
* Use summarized data.
* Add your components to Canvas without “Data Integration”; get your feedback at this stage.
* Instead of HLOOKUP, VLOOKUP, INDEX, etc. in Excel, use Selectors and in options for DATA INSERTION TYPES use “Filtered Rows”.

### For More Resources and Examples:

* Xcelsius 2008 General Best Practices White Paper from Business Objects, an SAP company.
* <http://www.inverra.com/Dashboards/demos.htm>
* <http://www.dashboardinsight.com/dashboards/>
* <http://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/boc/xcelsius-samples>
* <http://www.benchmarkers.com/showcase/>